



The Insider

www.senate.mi.gov/switalski

Inside State Politics with State Senator Mickey Switalski Senate District 10

February 4, 2005

Welcome to the electronic version of *The Insider*. I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your support and giving me an opportunity to represent you in the Michigan Senate. It is my sincere hope that this bi-weekly e-newsletter will keep you informed of the happenings in Lansing while staying true to the traditional style of *The Insider*. If you would like to contact me, please feel free to e-mail me at senmswitalski@senate.michigan.gov or call me at my Roseville or Lansing office. You can also meet me in person during my constituent hours, coming to a library near you. Call my office and make an appointment or just walk in. See schedule for details.

Tribute to Lance Corporal Allan Klein

Allan Klein, the son of Roseville Deputy Clerk Rae Oldaugh, is the latest Macomb County soldier to die in the Iraq war.

I offered the following tribute to him in a speech on the Senate floor on Wednesday, February 2nd, 2005.

"I rise to pay special tribute to U.S. Marine Lance Corporal Allan Klein, age 34, of Clinton Township, Michigan, who was killed in action in Iraq one week ago near the Jordanian border.

Allan was nearing the end of a 4-year hitch in the Marines. In fact, he was on his last mission in Iraq when the CH53E helicopter he was riding in crashed, killing him and 30 brothers-in-arms. His last mission was to secure the Iraqi border with Jordan for this past Sunday's elections. It was the single deadliest event in the war and the most Marines to die at once since the bombing of the Marine barracks in Lebanon in 1983.

Allan grew up in Roseville, where he attended Wellington Elementary and Eastland Junior High before graduating from Barblec High School in 1988. As a boy, he read avidly about the naval battles of World War II, a war in which his two grandfathers had fought. One fought for Germany; one fought for America. Allan studied engineering at Michigan Tech, but grew restive. His life changed in the aftermath of September 11th.

Allan was a thoughtful, quiet person. After the attack on the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center, he decided to devote his life to something bigger than himself. I imagine many of us were struck with those feelings. But for Allan, it was more than just feelings. He had the courage to act on his beliefs. He quit his job and enlisted in the United States Marines. His mother Rae tried to talk him out of it. She worried about him and wrote, called, and e-mailed him regularly, but Allan was determined. When he was offered a job in the motor pool, he rejected it and asked to serve in the infantry.

He was already 30 years old, but he endured the rigors of boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina, and trained in basic infantry in North Carolina. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force in Hawaii.

He participated in the assault on Fallujah, where he received shrapnel wounds and had seen members of his unit killed and injured. He felt that he had done his duty and looked forward to the day he would leave Iraq. That day was less than a fortnight away.

One final mission remained. His unit was to secure the Iraqi-Jordanian border as part of the effort to maintain order during the January 30th election. Every soldier fears being the last man to die in a conflict or getting killed on your final mission. Allan had a foreboding about it and wrote to his mother. He was ready to come home and get a job and buy a house and start a family. Rae prayed he would return home safely.

Allan Klein's helicopter crashed during a sandstorm in the Iraqi desert, killing all 31 soldiers on board. Allan was the 1,418th soldier to die in the war. His mother, who is a deputy clerk in Roseville, came home from work last Friday afternoon and got the news about her son from two Marines who came to her door.

Allan Klein is survived by his parents, Rae Oldaugh and Manfred Klein; his stepmother, Patricia Klein; his stepfather, Randall Oldaugh; his brother, Kurt; a stepbrother, Christopher Miletich; and a stepsister, Stephanie Lindsay.

Allan Klein gave his life to serve our country. He died in defense of something bigger than himself. We owe a debt to him and all of his comrades who have suffered and died for us.

We, therefore, offer this tribute to the life of Allan Klein and offer our heartfelt condolences to his family in this difficult time.”

Switalski Pushes for Campaign Finance Reform

Fundraising may be a necessary component in running a political campaign but it should not be a secretive process. The courts have ruled that campaign contributions are an aspect of freedom of speech. But freedom of speech must be balanced with openness and disclosure when it comes to campaign contributions and how it affects public policy.

I introduced two bills last week (Senate Bill 31 and 84) that would increase the public's access to campaign finance reports and would toughen penalties for violators of Michigan's campaign finance law.

Senate Bill 31 would increase the penalty for failing to file a campaign finance report from \$1,000 to \$5,000. The current fine is not an effective deterrent. Some candidates and campaign committees would rather pay the small fine and keep their campaign contributors secret. To them, the fine is a small price to pay for doing business. By increasing the fine, it would increase accountability and compliance.

In addition, Senate Bill 84 would require that campaign finance reports from candidates running in local elections be available on-line for public inspection and scrutiny. Some counties such as Macomb already have campaign finance reports for local candidates available on its website. Under the bill, all local campaign finance reports would be available online at the Secretary of State's website.

The bills are currently in the Senate Government Operations Committee awaiting further action. Stay tuned to future editions of the Insider E-Newsletter for updates on this legislation.

Mickey's TV Insider Show

Check out my TV Insider Show coming to a television station near you. Watch me interview local guests about politics, life, issues and concerns to our district.

Sterling Heights

Every Saturday and Sunday at 12:30 p.m.
(Comcast Channel 5/WOW Channel 10)

Utica

Every Wednesday at 9 a.m.
(Comcast Channel 5/WOW Channel 10)

Clinton Township

Last week of every month- Sat thru Thurs
(Comcast Channel 5/WOW Channel 10)

Roseville

Every other Tuesday at 6:05 p.m.
(Comcast Channel 18)

*Please note that Sterling Heights/Utica/Clinton Township will show the TV Insider Show on Comcast Channel 5 and Wide Open West Channel 10. Clinton Township will air the TV Insider Show at various times during the last week of every month. Roseville can see the TV Insider Show on Comcast Channel 18.

Coffee Hours

*Please note that since the District Office is in Roseville, I do not have set coffee hours in Roseville. However, I encourage you to visit the Roseville office. We even have a coffee pot. Everyone is welcome to attend the coffee hours and discuss their issues and concerns.

Feb. 7 7-9 p.m. Location: Sterling Heights Public Library (40255 Dodge Park) Sterling Heights	Feb. 28 7-9 p.m. Location: Clinton-Macomb Public Library (35891 South Gratiot, north of 15 Mile) Clinton Township
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Contact My Office

Website: <http://www.senate.mi.gov/switalski>

Email: senmswitalski@senate.michigan.gov

Lansing Office

Senator Mickey Switalski
Senate District 10
410 Farnum
PO Box 30036
Lansing, Michigan 48909

(866)303-0110 toll free
(517)373-7315
Fax-(517)373-3126

District Office

28311 Utica Road
Roseville, MI 48066

Monday through Friday
9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

(586)774-2430
Fax-(586)774-0012